

LIDMART, Ferdinand (Police Col.)

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION.

SOURCE Well-placed in official and officer circles (F)

- The Austrian Socialist Party (SPOs) has started preparations for the establishment of an Austrian army and a parliamentary enactment concerning military service. Its special committee on military matters includes the following 10 top SPO politicians:

Interior Minister Oskar Helmer (Chairman)
Vice Chancellor Dr. Adolf Scharrer (Deputy)
State Secretary Bruno Kreisky
Nationalrat Otto Probst
" Karl Czernetz
" Max Eiberger
" Kurt Preussler
" Felix Slavik
" Peter Strasser
" Adolf Populorum

- This committee also has a commission of 12 professional military men attached to it. The chairman of the professional group is Col. Johann Linabauer, his deputy is Police Col. Ferdinand Linhart. Another member of this group is a former lieutenant colonel of the general staff named Gerstmann (fn), of Carinthia, who is coming to Vienna on 23 May for the beginning of an SPOs conference on military matters.
- A group of SPOs members of parliament are scheduled to travel to Switzerland and Sweden for the purpose of studying the military organization of those countries. Although the group was originally scheduled to have completed this inspection trip by 23 May, it has not left Vienna. It should, however, depart in the immediate future.

¹Field Comment. Presumably the general staff of the Wehrmacht is meant.

²Source Comment. The political members of the committee expected to take an anti-military position are Probst, Czernetz and Strasser. The recent anti-military attitude expressed by the Carinthian SPOs is not expected to have an adverse effect on the work of the committee, since no official Party resolution was passed confirming this stand. The decisions of this group of parliamentarians and military men will be presented to the SPOs Directorate before negotiations with the CeVP on the establishment of the army are begun. It is not known whether the CeVP has set up a military committee of its own.

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